

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 13 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKSTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE
STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKSTAN ON THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE
PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakstan to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to inform the latter of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan dated 6 August 1997, concerning the prohibition of export of anti-personnel landmines, including re-export and transit.

Kazakstan shares the grave concern of many within the international community over the long-term and pernicious effects of the widespread use of anti-personnel mines.

The need to mobilize the international community to address this issue is widely recognized and Kazakstan has consistently supported the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly calling for a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines.

The Office of the Permanent Mission of Kazakstan would be grateful if the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan concerning this decision could be registered as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed for information to all member and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is authorized to state that by a resolution dated 6 August 1997 the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has imposed a ban on the export of anti-personnel landmines, including re-export and transit.

Kazakhstan shares the growing concern of the international community at the huge losses caused among the civilian population through the use of anti-personnel mines. In over 70 different countries, 110 million mines are still maiming and killing the civilian population every day. That is why anti-personnel mines have been dubbed "delayed-action weapons of mass destruction".

This serious problem, which is worldwide in scope, can only find a solution through joint international action to limit the use of anti-personnel mines and access to them, and in due course to forbid their use.

The unilateral moratorium introduced by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan provides support for the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and is an expression of our country's commitment to the cause of strengthening international peace and security.

Almaty, 11 August 1997
